

**Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-
January 19, 2021 Agenda**

1. Call the Meeting to Order-Introductions:
2. Approval of the November 17, 2020 AAC meeting minutes. *There was no meeting in December.*
3. Update on the Solar ZTA 20-01. The Farm Solar Stakeholder Working Group met on November 17, 2020, December 2, December 16, and December 29, 2020. *Doug Lechliden and Leslie Elder were the Co-Chairs of the Working Group.* Doug Lechliden will attend the January 14, 2021 Joint PHED/T&E Committee work session to represent the agricultural community. The Full Council vote on the Solar ZTA 20-01 is scheduled for January 26, 2021. *I attached to my cover email the final reports and the Council staff packet and some suggested notes in case you want to call the Council members and advocate the recommendations of the Agricultural Reserve Stakeholder prior to January 26, 2021. Here is a link that will take you to the MCA sign on letter.*
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfHHVQ_VfhQRZpzKHzyjViMxJIP-3_jR3kpCbzzAQkjWLmcxA/viewform *Both Howard and Baltimore counties allow solar fields by conditional use of approval and the Baltimore County conditional use process is outlined in the link below.*

Baltimore County-The purpose and intent of this article is to permit solar facilities in parts of the rural and commercial areas of the County by special exception, and to balance the benefits of solar energy production with its potential impact upon the County's land use policies by ensuring sufficient safeguards are in place to protect the County's communities and its agricultural land, forests, waterways and other natural resources.

https://library.municode.com/md/baltimore_county/codes/zoning_regulations?nodeId=ZONING_CODE_ART4FSOFA

4. Council Member Andrew Friedson will be introducing on January 19, 2021 Bill 5-21 Agricultural Land Preservation-Solar Collection Systems-Dedication of Business Personal Property Tax Revenue. The Public Hearing is scheduled for February 9, 2021 at 1:30 pm.
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2021/20210119/20210119_11B.pdf
5. Council Member Evan Glass introduced the Composting ZTA 20-04 on October 27, 2020 and the Public Hearing was conducted on December 1, 2020. The AAC, APAB and MSCD provided letters of support to the County Council for this Composting ZTA 20-04 that will increase the amount of off-site materials used in the compost process from 20% to 50%. All of the speakers were in support of ZTA 20-04 and they included- Brenda Platt, Michael Protas, Ben Butler, and Ben Perry. The PHED Committee Work Session is scheduled for January 25, 2021 at 9:30 am.

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201027/20201027_6A.pdf

6. Delegate Fraser Hidalgo has proposed MC 15-21 that would enable deer harvested under Deer Management Permits to be processed and commercially sold for venison-deer meat. MC 15-21 - Montgomery County - Deer Management Permit Pilot Program. Delegate Eric Luedtke has proposed a bill to create an Income Tax Credit-Venison Donation Expenses-MD Deer Donation Program.
7. The County Council will introduce an amendment to the Subdivision Regulations to exempt farm facilities from the subdivision process Chapter 50 for commercial buildings used for Agritourism, On-Site Farm Markets and Farm Alcohol Production.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Solar ZTA PHED/T&E Work Session-January 14, 2021 1:30 pm
Montgomery Soil Conservation District-January 15, 2021
CSA Future Harvest Virtual Conference-January 15, 2021
Montgomery County Ag Advisory Committee-January 19, 2021 7:00 pm.
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors- February 1, 2021 7:00 pm
Annual Farmers Market Training-February 3, 2021
Farmers Forum-February 5, 2021 9:30 am
Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-February 9, 2021 7:00 pm